

NO DATE

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: (☐) In Part (☐) In Full

(☐) Classify as _____ (☐) Extend as _____ (☐) Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

Dear Ted:

Thank you for your letter of March 3 commenting on the Department's report on human rights practices in Argentina. As you know, our human rights reports to Congress represent our best effort to convey an accurate, objective picture of actual conditions in the countries concerned. In preparing our reports, we draw upon information from a variety of sources including nongovernmental organizations. You are indeed correct that the excellent report prepared by the Bar Association's Mission to Argentina was among the major sources we consulted in preparing our assessment.

I can assure you that our commitment to seeking improved respect for human rights in Argentina remains unchanged. We will continue to make clear to the Argentine Government that the tenor of our relations depends importantly on human rights developments, and to urge the Argentines to take steps to restore full respect for human rights and the rule of law.

With regard to the tragic problem of disappearances, I am happy to inform you that the UN Human Rights Commission, with the active participation and support of our delegation, has decided

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President, The Association
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40 Wall Street,
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to establish an expert working group to deal with the question. The working group will be empowered to seek information from governments and private sources, and is to bear in mind the need to be able to respond effectively to this information. I am enclosing a copy of the text of the resolution. As you pointed out, the Human Rights Commission also took action on the Argentine situation under the confidential procedures established by ECOSOC Resolution 1503. The direct involvement of the UN Human Rights Commission in this issue represents an important advance in the effort to establish stronger international machinery for the protection of human rights.

I welcome, as always, your helpful comments and suggestions on our human rights policies and on the work of the Commission. The Association has contributed importantly to these efforts, particularly to the achievements of the Commission session which has just drawn to a close.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

Enclosure:

Text of UN Human Rights Commission
Resolution on Disappearances.